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Middlesex Community College  
**Celebrity Forum 2009**

# Sarah Ferguson

## Duchess of York

- The Road to Authentic Life -

This year, the Middlesex Community College *Celebrity Forum* will welcome Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York, advocate, author, businesswoman, mother and philanthropist, at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3 at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

Most ordinary observers would agree that Sarah Ferguson has lived an extraordinary life. Born in 1959, a distant descendant of King Charles II, Sarah married Prince Andrew, The Duke of York, second son of Her Majesty The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, in Westminster Abbey on July 23, 1986.

Following the births of her children, Princess Beatrice Elizabeth Mary of York in 1988 and Princess Eugenie Victoria Helena of York in 1990, life in the royal spotlight became overwhelming for Sarah. So, after 10 years of marriage and a very public separation, she and Prince Andrew amicably divorced in 1996.

With the fairytale a bit fractured, Sarah found the need to reinvent herself in order to bring some level of normalcy back into her life. After publicly tackling her weight issues, in 1997 she was named spokesperson for Weight Watchers International. American television stations quickly tapped her for appearances including: NBC's *Today*, CNN's *Larry King Live*, and ABC's *The View*. In Great Britain, The Duchess has been a regular contributor to BBC Radio's *Steve Wright* lifestyle show as well as co-producer and presenter of the BBC television documentary *In Search of the Spirit*. Having co-authored two books with historian Benita Stoney on the travels of Queen Victoria, Sarah was recently hired as executive producer of Martin Scorsese's new film *Young Victoria*, in which her daughter Princess Beatrice has a non-speaking role.

Sarah has authored many books, including the autobiographical bestseller *My Story*, five books on nutrition and weight-loss for Weight Watchers, *What I Know Now: Simple Lessons Learned the Hard Way*, and a soon to be released historical romance novel, *Hartmoor*. She also has written a series of popular children's books about Budgie, the Little Helicopter and, most recently, *Tea for Ruby*.

The Duchess is the recipient of many honors including: the American Cancer Society's *Mother of the Year Award*, the *One x One Difference Award* for international work to benefit children, the *AIDS Advocacy Award*, and the *Woman's Day* magazine *Women Who Inspire Us Award*. She also was the first female royal to get a pilot's license.

Sarah founded the London-based charity Children in Crisis in 1993 to help desperate children throughout the world, and in 2007 established The Sarah Ferguson Foundation in New York to help expand her mission. The Duchess has served as Ambassador for New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's 2008 anti-poverty campaign, and is a Global Ambassador for World Children's Day, as well as spokesperson for SOS Children's Villages worldwide.

The Duchess will share with the *Celebrity Forum* audience the steps and missteps she made on the rocky road to the authentic life she leads today. Although few of us will ever face the public scrutiny that is a daily part of royal life, her insights into finding inner peace will lead the audience to question the authenticity of the life they are now living.

The MCC *Celebrity Forum* is an annual event designed to bring well-known personalities to the area in order to enrich educational and cultural opportunities for local residents. Proceeds from this event help to raise funds for the MCC Foundation.

For more information on sponsorship opportunities for *Celebrity Forum 2009*, call Dennis Malvers, Dean of College Advancement, at 781-280-3590 or visit our website at [www.middlesex.mass.edu/CF09](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/CF09)

To order tickets, see the back page of this newsletter.